



New International Version is used for questions

1. Read Judges 6:1-18. The story of Gideon is about how God used and insignificant nobody (as far as this world judges people) and uses him to accomplish a great victory. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Why does God prefer to use nobodies? What do the “somebodies” of this world who are Christian have to overcome before God can use them?
2. What are the four things we believe about others that make us feel like we are not enough? Read 2 Corinthians 10:12, 17,18. What do these verses tell us that we should never do? Why is doing this such a harmful thing?
3. Read Judges 6:36-40. Gideon was still insecure about whether God could use him to save Israel, so what did he ask God to do? What did God do? What does this tell us about when we have insecurities about doing God’s will?
4. Read Judges 6:16. What is God’s solution for us when we are insecure about serving Him? Read 2 Corinthian 12:8-10. What did the Apostle Paul learn to do with the areas of his life that he was weak in? When should we actually feel insecure?
5. When does our faith really grow? What would happen if we always waited until we were totally confident and knew all of the answers before we obeyed God? What four things did Gideon do despite his fear? Are there things that we know God wants us to do but we are procrastinating?
6. Read Judges 7:1-8. What did God have Gideon do? Why do you think he did this? How would you have felt if you had been Gideon? Read verses 16-22. What happened and what battle strategy did Gideon use to win this battle? Can you think of another time when God had Israel use an absurd strategy to win a battle?
7. Questions to ponder: Where is my insecurities keeping me stuck in doing God’s will? What if God is not waiting for you to be confident, but simply waiting for you to trust Him?

1. *The reason that God loves to use nobodies is because they realize that whatever they accomplish is through God's power and not their own abilities. They give God the glory for what happens. The people who "have it together" from the world's point of view: the rich, the skilled, the attractive, etc. have to overcome their own ego and not take the credit for what God does, so they have this obstacle to overcome.*
2. *The four things we believe about others are that they are: a. more capable; b. more confident; c. more gifted; and d. more prepared. These verses tell us to never compare ourselves to other people to make a judgement about ourselves, we should believe what God says about us. Comparing ourselves to other people and not to Christ is so damaging because we only see the good that others do and we do not see the struggles that they hide from everyone so we get a warped view of them and think they are so much better than us. Christ is the only one we are to compare ourselves to and make becoming like him our goal, not becoming like another human.*
3. *Gideon "put out a fleece", which this story is where that expression comes from. He asked God to give him a visual sign that what He had told him was really going to happen. God granted his request, He did not upbraid him for his lack of faith in believing what He had told Gideon. This tells us that God knows we have insecurities and he does not reject us when we do. We do not need to put our fleeces to prove God's will because we have something that Gideon did not have: We have the completed Word of God, the Bible, that we can read daily what God says and how we can trust him. There is not guarantee anywhere in scripture that God will do for us what he did for Gideon, so believing that He will can actually cause us to miss doing God's will.*
4. *God's answer to our insecurities is his presence, the knowledge that God is always with us and will enable us to do His will. Paul learned to lean into his weaknesses because when we are weak, then God has the opportunity to work and our weaknesses can actually then become our strengths because we get our own egos out of the way and let God work instead. We should feel insecure when we are not allowing God to work in our lives and relying on our own strength.*
5. *Our faith grows when we obey God even before we feel confident that we can do what He asks. If we wait until we feel confident and understand everything, we will wind up not doing what God wants us to do. Gideon tore down idols, gathered an army, prepared everyone for battle, and led 300 men against thousands even though he was scared.*
6. *God had Gideon reduce his army to just 300 men even though he was fighting over 100,000 men. He did this so that there would be not doubt as to who won the battle for them: God. Gideon's army won simply by breaking some pots with torches in them and shouting. Another time God had Israel use an absurd battle strategy was at Jericho in the book of Joshua when they just marched around the city blowing trumpets*